

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.  
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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Money sent us otherwise than by registered letter, postal money order, express order, or draft on New York, will be at the risk of the sender.

Agents.—THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE has many volunteer canvassers, and they are generally honest and faithful; but persons who solicit subscriptions to them must be their own judges of their responsibility. The paper will be sent only on the receipt of the subscription price.

Address.—RENEWALS, etc.—Address will be changed as often as desired, but each subscriber should in every case give the old as well as the new address.

Correspondence.—Correspondence is solicited from every section in regard to Grand Army, Sons of Veterans, Pension, and Military matters, and letters to the Editor will always receive prompt attention. Write on one side of the paper only. We do not return communications or manuscripts unless they are accompanied by a request to that effect and the necessary postage, and under no circumstances guarantee their publication at any special rate.

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ARTICLES FORTHCOMING.

TO AND THROUGH WEST POINT.

BY CAPT. FREE S. BOWLEY.

Our readers who have enjoyed in the past the stories and sketches from the pen of Capt. Free S. Bowley will be delighted to know that we have received a new serial under the above title, written exclusively for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. It is needless to remark that the author of "A Boy Lieutenant in a Black Regiment" (which was published last year in THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE) could not write a dull line.

The character of the article is fully described in the title. Capt. Bowley directs a boy exactly how to proceed, step by step, to prepare for and secure an appointment to the Military Academy at West Point. Then he details one stage after the other, the life of the cadet as he passes through the various classes of the institution and finally receives his diploma and an appointment as an officer in the Regular Army of the United States.

Parents who have growing sons with military ambition, and boys themselves similarly inclined, will find these articles of intense interest.

THE SUMMERVALE BRABBLE.

BY HON. ALBION W. TOURGEE.

Another brilliant serial which will run several months has been secured for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE from Comrade Albion W. Tourgee. It is entitled "The Summerville Brabble." It is a story of American life, involving many strange people who have curious ups and downs and family mix-ups. The scene is laid at Chautauque and thereabouts.

As the author of "A Fool's Errand," "Bricks Without Straw," and many other works of national reputation, our readers have only to see the announcement of his name as the author of a forthcoming serial to feel sure of a glorious literary treat.

Judge Tourgee is now United States Consul at Bordeaux, France. He was a gallant Union soldier and is a veteran of the 106th Ohio.

"The Summerville Brabble" will appear exclusively in the columns of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

WHILE we are all talking so earnestly about "preserving China's integrity," won't China please do a little to show that she has any integrity to preserve?

The bicycle seems to be more than holding its own in France. Last year the Government collected tax on 836,856 wheels, as against 203,026 in 1892-1894.

A TENNESSEE woman killed her son because he smoked. The remedy was somewhat violent, it is true, but think of the provocation.

GEN. Joe Wheeler is one of the Democrats emphatically opposed to surrendering any of the fruits of the war with Spain.

Now for the stories of the men who did it and revelations of the shrewd and able manner in which they turned the current of disaster into the tide of victory.

HAWAII seems to have had a remarkable boom since annexation. Then her population was 89,990. Now the census finds 154,091.

THESE suicides of prominent Chinese Mandarins would be more readily believed if a few corpses decorated with yellow jackets and double-eyed peacocks' feathers were put in evidence.

WORK OF THE PENSION BUREAU.

The week ended Oct. 27 was a fairly good one in the Pension Bureau, with a total of 1,900 certificates issued, as against 2,160 for the previous week, and 2,706 for the week ending Oct. 13. The main falling off was in the increases, which declined from 1,230 three weeks ago, to 593 last week. The original allowances, which are important as at last giving something to long-waiting applicants, kept up very well, being 984, as compared to 944 and 935 for the preceding weeks.

THE COURT OF PENSION APPEALS.

Now that the election is over we can turn our attention to the Court of Pension Appeals, proposed by the National G. A. R. Committee on Pensions, and endorsed by the National Encampment.

This was not merely a device to pacify the comrades until after election, as many have charged. Nor has it wholly reference to the lamentable condition of things in the Pension Bureau, as is generally supposed. Mr. Evans's course has simply brought to a head that which has been fermenting in the minds of many thinking comrades for years.

What pensioners and applicants for pensions have suffered most from in public opinion is the too general belief that too much discretion is given the Commissioner in adjudicating claims. The soldier-hating press and orators have industriously cultivated the idea that pensions have been given without reference to law or evidence, by too partial Commissioners. Thousands of columns have been printed in the New York Herald, Times, Evening Post and World, and papers imitating them, charging that such Commissioners as Dudley, Tanner and Raum shuffled out pensions to whoever asked for them, regardless of the deserving of the claimants, and that this practice was most flagrant on the approach of elections, and in States that were doubtful. That there was not a shadow of truth upon which to base such allegations did not abate in the least the fierceness of these charges. It was good enough campaign stuff, and it was always available for an attack on a Republican Administration.

The unwearied reiteration of these charges, year after year, made many people, even those most friendly to the veterans, begin to believe that there was much truth in them. The more or less Republican papers in New York and Philadelphia, like the New York Tribune and the Philadelphia Press, never had the knowledge of the subject sufficient to confute these charges, and were too indifferent to acquire it. Possibly they really lacked the ability to do so, for the editorials of those papers have been for years notoriously weak.

Now, it is hoped and expected by the establishment of the Court of Pension Appeals to remove any reproach of personal or political favoritism from the pension roll, and place it, and every name upon it, upon the high and unassailable ground of a judicial decision. This will be done by having a tribunal of the dignity of a United States Circuit Court interpret the pension laws, and lay down rules for the guidance of the Commissioner of Pensions which he will be compelled to follow. It does not imply for an instant that every case will have to come before the Court of Pension Appeals, nor even that any great number of them will. The Court will simply take the place of the Secretary of the Interior in passing upon any disputed question, and being a Court, made up of trained jurists, speaking with the force and effect of a high tribunal, will be more far-reaching and efficacious than the rulings and decisions of any mere ministerial officer can be.

Any Court of fairly able lawyers would at once cut to pieces the web of circumlocution which has been painstakingly elaborated to keep a claimant out of his claim until he dies, or until some one on the pension roll dies and makes a place for him.

The Court would simply decide that when Congress said A it meant A, and that the Commissioner must not infer that it really intended some other letter of the alphabet. It would decide that laws were passed with the purpose of being carried out, and that the Commissioner who invented obstructions and discovered purposes in the law that were never intended was perverting his functions; that he was there to carry out the law, and not to hunt up pretexts for thwarting its operation.

The next great gain would be that when the Court decided that a class of claims were legal and should be paid, the Administration would be absolved from any responsibility as to the amount it would take from the Treasury. The Administration could not be charged with extravagance in paying the Court's awards, nor could it get any credit for economy by neglecting to pay them. It would have no interest in the matter, one way or the other, any more than it has now in the judgments by the Court of Claims, or the Supreme Court.

AN INDISCREET CLERK.

Not a little hubbub was created in the Interior Department last week by appearance in the New Orleans Times-Democrat of an interview with Walter J. Brooks, Assistant Chief Clerk of the Pension Bureau. The interview ran in this wise:

"The applications for pensions from those engaged in the Spanish war are coming in fast," said Mr. Brooks. "The Bureau has already filed 20,000 applications, and they are still coming in. Over 50 per cent. of the members of the District of Columbia regiment have filed applications for pensions."

"How many of those men were wounded?"

"Not one, so far as I know. Most of them claim that they have been permanently injured by contracting fever or other diseases in camp."

"Do you think that Roosevelt's Rough Riders have applied for pensions?"

"I cannot tell you; I haven't the statistics on that regiment."

"About what will be the aggregate sum paid out annually for these 30,000 pensions?"

"Oh, there won't be 30,000 pensions granted. I should say that not more than 50 per cent. of the applications will be acted upon favorably. But about 15,000 men will get pensions, and they will average about \$150 a year each, or say, \$2,250,000 for all of them."

"Do you think that two millions and a quarter dollars will cover the pensions annually for the Spanish war?"

"No; experience has shown that the pension law is a money pump. It has pumped out after the close of a war. But lots of the men who have applied for pensions are young men who have nothing whatever to do with the war. The examinations of our surgeons clearly show that. All they have is 'pension fever,' and that is a bad complaint. When a man has it he

THE ELECTION.

The result of the election was a surprise even to the most sanguine. No one could have possibly anticipated such things as 100,000 majority for McKinley in Illinois, 250,000 in Pennsylvania, 160,000 in New York, 80,000 in Wisconsin, etc. At this writing (Wednesday morning) the poll seems to stand:

FOR McKinLEY.

California ..... 9  
New Jersey ..... 10  
Connecticut ..... 6  
New York ..... 36  
Delaware ..... 3  
North Dakota ..... 3  
Illinois ..... 21  
Ohio ..... 23  
Indiana ..... 15  
Oregon ..... 4  
Iowa ..... 13  
Pennsylvania ..... 32  
Kansas ..... 10  
Texas ..... 10  
Maine ..... 6  
South Dakota ..... 3  
Maryland ..... 15  
Vermont ..... 4  
Massachusetts ..... 15  
Washington ..... 4  
Michigan ..... 14  
West Virginia ..... 6  
Minnesota ..... 12  
Wisconsin ..... 12  
Nebraska ..... 8  
Wyoming ..... 3  
New Hampshire ..... 4  
Total ..... 238

FOR BRYAN.

Alabama ..... 11  
Montana ..... 3  
Arkansas ..... 8  
Nevada ..... 3  
Colorado ..... 4  
North Carolina ..... 11  
Florida ..... 4  
South Carolina ..... 9  
Idaho ..... 13  
Tennessee ..... 12  
Kentucky ..... 13  
Utah ..... 3  
Louisiana ..... 8  
Virginia ..... 12  
Mississippi ..... 9  
Total ..... 158

Total electoral votes, 447. Necessary to elect, 224.

Electoral vote in 1896—McKinley, 271; Bryan, 176.

The result in the House is no less surprising. In the present House the Republicans have a scant majority of 7. They have made gains almost everywhere, and in the next House will have a majority of at least 47.

THE TEXAS SUFFERERS.

Elsewhere we publish an appeal signed by the Department Commander G. A. R. and the Department President W. R. C., and endorsed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic and the National President W. R. C.

Commander Peck accompanies the appeal with some words of explanation. All should be attentively considered by our readers. The situation is peculiarly urgent. Of late years there has been a considerable drift of veterans and their families to the coast of Texas to escape the strenuous climate of the North, which they could not withstand as well as in their younger days. Few of these immigrants had any considerable means—most of them not more than would take them to their destination and establish some sort of a home there. All that they had has been swept away, and they have been left destitute in a strange land, far from their relatives and friends.

In the distribution of the relief which has been generously sent from all parts of the country they will not fare so well as the natives and older settlers, because this distribution will be naturally in the hands of prominent citizens, who will look most carefully after cases among their friends and acquaintances.

Therefore the veterans and their families are doubly our care. Every veteran, wife, widow and son and daughter of a veteran, should give something, if no more than a nickel.

The Department of Texas is fortunate in having at this juncture a capable, far-seeing business man for its Commander, Comrade Chas. B. Peck is a prominent railroad man of pronounced ability for organization and details, and he is handling the situation with great skill, so that the comrades can have every confidence that their contributions will be well applied.

In a private letter to us he says:

"We have received thus far about \$2,500, nearly all of which has been disbursed, and has rendered great assistance. If you could witness the gratitude of the poor comrades, their wives and children, at the succor that is being given them you would feel well repaid for the noble effort you have made. We need and have not to have continued aid for three or four months, and I hope that you will keep the matter before our people. Think of our membership, and if each one would contribute the price of a drink or a cigar (and where is the quarrel with that?) to these poor people they will be saved much wretchedness, rescue their homes from the creditor's grip, and not become a charge on the charity of a generous but somewhat forgetful people."

TEXAS CONTRIBUTIONS.

Since our last issue we have received the following contributions:

Previously acknowledged ..... \$490.55  
Jos. L. Williams, Reading, Pa. .... 1.00  
Yank Johnston, Winthrop, Wash. .... 1.00  
L. A. Crook, Livingston Station, Wis. .... 1.00  
Hy Hetzler, Eureka, S. D. .... 1.00  
John S. Bittner Post, Rockhaven, Pa. .... 5.00  
Sent direct ..... 1.00  
A. H. Terry, W. R. C., Tampa, Fla. .... 10.00  
A. H. Terry Post, Tampa, Fla. .... 5.00  
Gen. H. Thomas Post, Spokane, Wash. .... 10.00  
Total ..... 15.00



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The Trip Up the Tennessee Develops a Little

"Now," said Si, with the manner that came over him when his biggest things were to be done, "everybody off with his coat and roll up his sleeves. Let's get that stuff out of the cars and on to that boat, and the boat's better off for it. Everybody jump, now, and keep it up, until we're out of 'reach o' headquarters."

"Secretary Stanton's orders," remarked Shad Graham philosophically, "but all the same the sooner we're away from here the better. Everybody get the liveliest kind of a move on himself. Dye, you go back aboard the boat, and after the Major has blown off his steam bring him over to that decked flatboat there, which is our wharf-boat. You see that it's clear all around it. We keep it so. He can have no excuse about bumping against other boats. Then you take charge of the loading as the stuff comes. Si, you take the men over to the cars, and load it on to the wagons that I'll send you, and rush it over to the wharf-boat. I'll take a little scout around and see how things are working, and be with you as soon as possible."

Whenever 100 heavy, stalwart young Indians get up a full head of steam for a job on which their hearts are set, they can accomplish wonders in an hour. By that time they had the whole lot of the pontoon stuff from the cars onto the wagons, and transferred it to the decks of the Lorena. Si distributed Harry Joslyn and Monty Scruggs along the road, where they were to be at an instant's notice, and work by animated language, supplementing these with bricks when language did not seem to be adequate. Sandy, Pete Skid and the company of men, six in all, played pitch-and-catch in transferring the smaller articles, while Si led the stronger-bred in a fierce assault upon the timbers, frames, bales, cordage and anchors. In an hour the heavy timber was all gone, and he was a half-day's task for men working ordinarily.

When, glowing with the rapid exertion and satisfaction at having accomplished the work so quickly, he stood on the deck, his blouse and blanket-roll in his left hand, his blouse and overcoat thrown over his left arm, and mopping his hot face with his right hand, he followed the last load on to the boat, he told Major Crewet that he was at his defeat, and bestowing his wrath on everything in sight, finding bitter fault with all that was done.

"Here," he pointed, "what do you position on the front of the cabin deck, 'what do you men mean by slapping those heavy timber down that way? Think this boat's made of rock or of iron? Don't you know we've got a load of ammunition on board, those things down as easy as if there was a percussion shell under them, as there is, Sergeant Dye, what's the matter with you? Why are you allowing that? Lay them down easy."

The result of this order was several muffled fingers, at which the Major raised his eyebrows, and said, "You will hurt yourselves, and wonder that you don't stand around and nurse yourselves. Sergeant Dye, where are your eyes? Keep those men moving. Don't pile those anchors there on the forecastle. Tell 'em to get 'em down down too much by the head already? Pick them all up and carry them back on to the fantail. Here, you're getting entirely too close to those timbers on the larboard side. The boys that are on the fantail are under way. First thing, the boat is horribly out of trim. Shows the lack of an Engineer's eye and education. (He said this loud enough to make sure that the boys were hearing.) 'Can't possibly make any speed in this shape, and may wreck herself. Very dangerous, indeed, to attempt to run her this way. Bring those anchors back there forward, and shift those heavy timbers down on the fantail to port, and get her on an even keel."

"Sergeant Klegg," commanded Shad, in a voice of official harshness, "set 20 men to carrying those anchors forward, and shift those heavy timbers down on the fantail to port, and get her on an even keel."

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"Very good, sir," said Si, saluting.

"Very good men, those of you, Lieutenant," said the Colonel, noting the alacrity with which they set about their tasks, "but that is no reason. I select the men to be banged about and abused by every inexperienced bureaucrat that happens to come along."

"That is last week's apparently sotto voce, but quite loud enough for the Major to hear."

"Orderly," continued the Colonel, sharply.

"Yes, sir," said Shad, saluting.

"I have my things packed up to the large state-room on the larboard side, further end, that they call the bridal chamber, and put in there. Have Julius arrange the room for me, dusting it out, putting fresh flowers on the bed, plenty of fresh towels, and so on."

This roused the Major to the first speech since the Colonel had come aboard. "Excuse me," he said, "but I'm a soldier, and I when I first came aboard, and when the boat was assigned to me."

The Colonel adjusted his glasses, and looked at the Major with a keen eye. "To express astonishment that a mere Ordnance fellow should presume to have rights or privileges that conflicted with an Engineer's wishes. 'Major,' he remarked, 'the number of things in the Army Regulations which seem unfamiliar to you, you seem to have specially overlooked that paragraph which gives the commanding officers absolute right to not to express astonishment that a mere Ordnance fellow should presume to have rights or privileges that conflicted with an Engineer's wishes. 'Major,' he remarked, 'the number of things in the Army Regulations which seem unfamiliar to you, you seem to have specially overlooked that paragraph which gives the commanding officers absolute right to not to express astonishment that a mere Ordnance fellow should presume to have rights or privileges that conflicted with an Engineer's wishes. 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